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The Chickadee at Home¹

BY WILLIAM L. FINLEY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HERMAN T. BOHLMAN

THE air was crisp. The snow crunched under foot. The water of Fulton Creek slid noiselessly thru the lush grasses that hung along the bank. The clump of tall firs up the hillside was roughly inked against the gray clouds. The dead hush of winter had crept up the canyon. Suddenly a sound like the tinkling of tiny bell-voices broke the stillness. Across the long white vista between the pointed firs scurried a whole troupe of black-and-white fairies.

I stood in the same place a little over three months later. Where I had seen a dozen fairies I now saw only two. Where the rest of the troupe had gone, I do not know. These two seemed happy by themselves. I stood there and watched one of the midgets whirl over to a nearer bush. I looked around but saw nothing but the wreck of an old alder—dead, rotten, useless—broken off five feet from the ground, not even good for fire-wood, almost ready to return as earth to the ground from which it sprang—rotten, but not entirely useless. It gave me a suggestion.

I have never found the chickadee moody. I've seen him when it was so cold I could not understand just how he kept his tiny body warm, when it looked like all hunting for him and no game. If he was hungry, he didn't show it. The wren goes south and lives in sunshine and plenty all winter. He goes wild with delight when he returns home in the spring. The chickadee winters in the north. He endures the cold and hunger of the dreary months. In the spring, his cheer seems just the same. He doesn't bubble over. He takes his abundance in quiet contentment.

The glade up Fulton Creek just suited the chickadees. It was rarely invaded by small boys. Chickadee likes human society when the snow comes and food grows scarce in the woods, but just as soon as he falls in love and his mind turns to housekeeping, he looks for a quiet nook.

The next time I strolled up the creek, one of the newly wedded pair suddenly met me just where the path branched a few yards below the alder stump. I didn't see him come, but he appeared right on the limbs of the maple over

¹ The subject of this sketch is the Oregon chickadee (*Parus atricapillus occidentalis*).

the trail that led away from the nest. As soon as I stopped, he began turning and twisting, stretching his neck to look under a leaf. He hung by his toes head down and swung back up like a trapeze performer. Then he swung head down again, dropped and lit right side up on the branch below. He made a high jump of over a foot, but grabbed nothing. And such unconcern! He never looked at me. "You're entertaining, but not so public-spirited as you seem," I said, as I followed him off down the wrong path away from the nest.

I'll never forget the day we trudged up with the camera to get a picture of the eggs. When we reached the chickadee villa, the mother was at home. I



NEST AND EGGS OF CHICKADEE; STUMP OPENED FROM REAR;
ALL SEVEN EGGS HATCHED

knocked at the base so she would leave. Then I shook the stub, but she didn't take the hint. I took a little twig and poked in, trying to lift her up. She met my advance with a peculiar little explosion that sounded like a mad cat in a box. Finally, I cut a piece right out of the back part of her house where the wall was thin. There she sat, immovable, while I focused my camera. The little black eyes showed a brave determination that I've seldom seen in a bird. I carefully slid the piece back again and locked it with a string.

I knew she had performed a heroic act. I sat down under the tree to watch. The instant all was quiet she shot from the door like a winged bullet and struck right on the limb beside her mate, who had been "dee-dee-ing" to her all the while.

Of course birds do not feel as we feel, but I don't believe a sweetheart ever met her lover returning from a field of battle with a greater show

of joy. They simply threw themselves into each other's arms. It wasn't a silent meeting either; there were real cracks of kisses and twitters of praise. Chickadees are not human by any means, but had she not defended her home all alone against the mighty invasion of a giant?

A day or so later I really did catch both the owners away from the nest, and I counted seven dotted eggs on a cottony couch. When the mother returned, she was so flustered and worried that I closed the door and started to leave in a hurry. But I hadn't stepped away more than ten feet before she was clinging at the

doorway, and a moment later she popped into the hole and continued her brooding.

I watched the chickadees for a few days after the eggs were hatched. Both birds fed in turn, and the turns were anywhere from three to ten minutes apart. From the time the callow chicks were hatched, the parents were busy from daylight to dark. They searched every leaf and twig along the limbs and trunk to the roots of every tree, under bark and moss, in ferns, bushes and vines, and they hunted thoroly. Such numbers of spiders they ate, and green caterpillars and brown worms, grasshoppers, daddy-long-legs, moths, millers and flies, besides untold numbers of eggs and larvæ. Everything was grist that went to the chickadee mill. The way they could turn insects into feathers, distributing black and white pigments just where they belonged, was simply marvelous. A baby chickadee changes about as much in a day as a human baby does in a year.

One can readily estimate the amount of insect life that is destroyed in a day, when the parents return every few minutes with food. Think of how closely every bush and tree is gone over everywhere about the nest. One chickadee nest in an orchard means the destruction of hundreds and maybe thousands of harmful insects and worms every day. It more than pays for all the fruit the birds can destroy in a dozen seasons.

I spent two whole days at the nest before the young chicks were ready to leave home. The owners of the stump seemed to think we had placed the camera there for their convenience, for they generally used the tripod for a perch. Then they always paused a second at the threshold before entering. The seven eggs had pretty well filled the nest. Now it looked like an overflow. It seemed to me that if the little chicks continued to grow they would either have to be stacked up in tiers or lodged in an upper story.

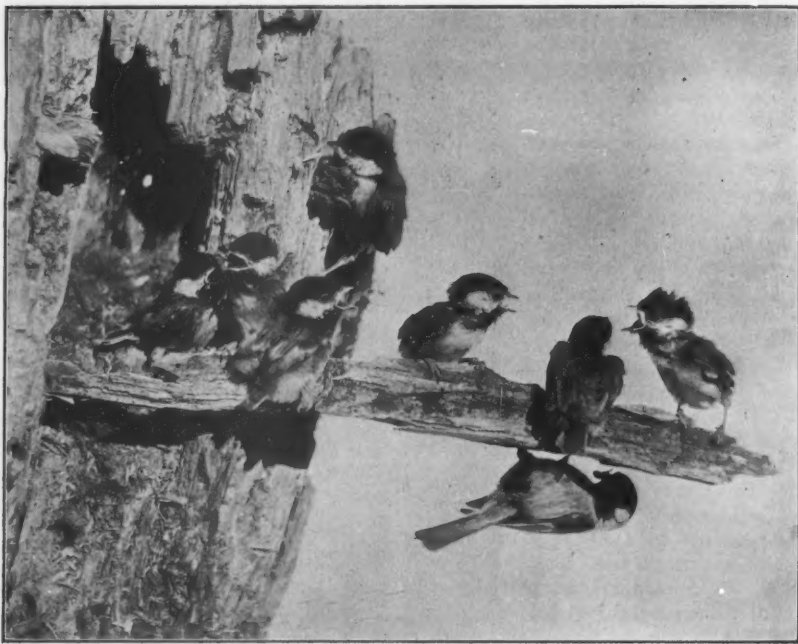
Once the mother came with a white miller. She had pulled the wings off, but even then it looked entirely too big for a baby's mouth. Not a single nestling but wanted to try it. When the mother left, I looked in and one little fellow sat with the miller bulging out of his mouth. It wouldn't go down any further, but he lay back in apparent satisfaction; digestion was working at a high speed below. I saw the miller gradually slipping down, until finally the last leg disappeared as he gave a strenuous gulp.



CHICKADEE AT NEST HOLE

The day was warm. We built a little promenade from the front door and set one of the youngsters blinking in the sunshine. He soon got his bearings. He liked it and looked so perked-up and proud. Then we set out another and another, seven in all.

I believe there's more family love in a chickadee's household than in any other bird home I've visited. I've seen a young flicker jab at his brother in real devilish madness, but I never saw two chickadees come to blows. Of course, when young chickadees are hungry, they will cry for food just as any child. Not one of the seven was the least backward in asserting his rights when a morsel of food was in sight. Each honestly believed his turn was next. Once or twice I saw what



"THE FAMILY JAR"; MOTHER CHICKADEE HANGING BELOW PERCH FOR AN INSTANT BEFORE FEEDING
THE YOUNG ONES

Copyright Photo, 1902, by H. T. Bohlman and W. L. Finley

looked like a real family jar. Each one of the seven was clamoring for food as the mother hovered over. She herself must have forgotten whose turn it was, for she hung beneath the perch a moment to think. How she ever told one from the other, so as to divide the meals evenly, I don't know. There was only one chick I could recognize—that was pigeon-toed, tousled-headed Johnnie.

We trudged up the canyon early the next morning. Four of the flock had left the nest and taken to the bushes. Three staid in the clump while we focused the camera. It is rare indeed when one catches a real clear photograph of bird home-life, such as a mother just placing a green cut-worm in the mouth of a hungry chick; an unusual look of satisfaction on the face of the second bantling,

who had just gotten a morsel; and a hopeful expression on the countenance of the third, who is sure to get the next mouthful—the present, the past and the future in one scene! (See frontispiece.)

There are perhaps many other families of chickadees that live and hunt thru the trees along Fulton Creek. I rarely visit the place that I do not hear some of them. But ever since the seven left the old alder stump, that has now fallen to pieces, I never see a flock about this haunt that they do not greet me with the same song I heard three years ago: "Chickadee-dee! Chickadee-dee!"

Portland, Oregon.

The English Sparrow in the Southwest

BY O. W. HOWARD

SO far as I can learn the English sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is found in every state in the Union, and in most of our large cities they are so common as to be considered a plague.

Why are there no English sparrows in southern California where the climatic conditions are so mild and inviting?

My first experience with the English sparrow occurred in December, 1901, when I had occasion to visit the town of Bakersfield. I was much surprised to find the little fellows feeding on the paved streets in the center of town. I knew the sparrows were common in San Francisco and neighboring towns but had no idea they had found their way so far south. Later, in the spring of 1902, I found the sparrows nesting commonly about the principal buildings of Bakersfield; even at the court house they were occupying deserted swallows' nests.

In 1903, I again visited Bakersfield several times and found that the sparrows had increased considerably. A number of pairs were nesting in cypress trees in yards and seemed to take the place of linnets. Late in the fall of the same year I chanced to stop at the town of Tehachapi, about 4000 feet elevation, situated at the extreme summit of Tehachapi Pass thru which the Southern Pacific railroad runs. Here I found the English sparrow in flocks feeding around the railroad yard. This was another revelation to me for I took it for granted that Bakersfield was their southernmost limit and did not expect to find them at this high altitude.

The Tehachapi Mountains are considered the natural dividing line between northern and southern California, the San Joaquin Valley on the north and the Antelope Valley on the south. After finding the sparrows at Tehachapi, I naturally expected to find them next at the town of Mojave which is located on the edge of the desert in Antelope valley and only about twenty-five miles south of Tehachapi. I searched several times at the town of Mojave during the year 1903 but failed to find a single sparrow. I have not had opportunity to visit that locality since 1903, but in the meantime have made some observations in Arizona.

While located at Tucson, in May, 1904, I was very much surprised one morning to see an English sparrow alight within ten feet of me on the principal street and at once commence scratching for its favorite food. I saw several other birds the same day and later in the season found about half a dozen pairs nesting in the switch-board boxes which are placed on telephone poles about twenty-five feet

above the ground. The birds entered these boxes thru small holes in the bottom which seemed hardly large enough to admit the body of the bird, and an amusing thing to me was to see the little fellows with great bunches of nesting material in their beaks working like troopers and never stopping at the entrance hole but fairly diving up thru it; if it's possible to dive *up*.

I inquired of some of the linemen as to whether or not the English sparrow had been seen in Tucson in previous years and could learn of only one pair which had nested in one of these same boxes the previous year. I am quite sure this is the first record for Tucson, for in eight seasons' collecting in Arizona I stopped at Tucson each year and would hardly overlook a bird so conspicuous. The same season (1904) I saw a single pair of the sparrows at Tombstone, Arizona, and Mr. F. C. Willard also saw a pair of the birds at Tombstone, being the first record for that town. I do not know of any other records for Arizona tho the birds may be common in some of the northern towns.

One would naturally think from the notes gathered that the English sparrows are gradually closing in on southern California and that before many moons we can expect to see them in the streets of Los Angeles. Should this come to pass there will be a good chance for the Cooper Club to do some missionary work by taking steps to keep this pest from multiplying. The house finch, or linnet, seems to take the place of the English sparrow in this locality and is also considered a pest, but holds no comparison in that regard, to the English sparrow. I fear the house finches would not last long if the sparrows once got a good start.

Los Angeles, California.

The Calaveras Warbler in Western Washington

BY C. W. AND J. H. BOWLES

THE Calaveras warbler (*Helminthophila rubricapilla gutturalis*), altho a rare summer resident, is of rather more general distribution than even a seasoned observer would at first be led to think. Their extreme shyness makes it almost impossible to get more than an occasional glimpse of the birds as they dodge into cover, and only the singing of the males gives the bird student any definite idea of their whereabouts. They make their first appearance in the vicinity of Tacoma early in the third week of April, and by the third week of May all the migrants have passed northward and only those intending to raise their young are to be found.

The males, during the first sunny days after their arrival, seem almost too full of the joy of living to contain themselves. At this season only they are not particularly shy, and they have a very pleasing habit at times while singing, that I have seen in no other warbler, namely, that of hovering thru the air for a distance of fifteen or twenty yards. The manner of flying at these times is very slow and closely resembles that of one of the marsh wrens, but the beak is turned upwards and the feathers on the swelling throat separate until it seems almost certain that the bird will sing himself into some serious bodily mishap.

Like the hermit warbler, a bird of the higher altitudes in the mountains of California, the Calaveras warbler, on reaching the cooler climate of the northwest,

is to be found as a rule only on the driest prairies. Here the birds frequent the scattered clumps of young oaks and fir trees that have reached a height of some three or four feet, and which border the large tracts of dense fir timber. It is a noteworthy fact that, while these birds are not often to be found more than a hundred yards outside of the forests, they are seldom or never seen inside of the dividing line where the heavy timber meets the prairie. Also they do not encroach upon the hillside territory of the lutescent warbler, which bird in turn does not appear on the prairies but confines itself to the brush-covered uplands.

The nest, besides being rare, is exceedingly difficult to locate, so much so that nine seasons of field work have yielded us only five sets of eggs. The male never sings anywhere in the vicinity of the nest, and the female covers her eggs until forced from the nest by the intruder.

The site chosen is usually at the base of a very young oak, or fir, tho on one occasion we found one built under some blackberry vines at the base of a large fir stub. The nests are sunk well into the ground or moss, and are so well concealed as to defy discovery unless one flushes the bird. They are well made, being composed of a quantity of fine strips of bark and fine dead grass, the lining consisting of very fine dead grass, horse-hair and an occasional feather. The external dimensions of a typical nest are three inches wide by two inches deep; internal dimensions one and three-fourths inches wide by one and one-fourth inches deep. In appearance, as might be expected, they are almost counterparts of nests of the Nashville warbler, taken by us in eastern Massachusetts.

The number of eggs to a set is almost invariably four, one set of three fresh eggs being taken which was probably incomplete. This seems at variance with the sets taken in California, where the majority appear to consist of five eggs. There are two distinct types of markings. In one the ground color is a dull white heavily sprinkled all over with five dots of reddish-brown, distributed rather more thickly around the larger end. The other type has the same ground color, but is much more sparingly dotted and has large blotches such as are sometimes termed "flowers" of reddish-brown. These two types are practically indistinguishable from sets of the Nashville warbler in our collection.

In shape they vary from rounded oval to ovate oval. There is a slight variation in size, the eggs of the largest set in our collection are .65x.50, .67x.50, .65x.49 and .65x.49 inches, and the eggs of the smallest set measure .62x.49, .62x.50, and .62x.49 inches.

It seems almost certain that two sets of eggs are laid in a season, altho few of the birds in the northwest appear to have any fixed time for nesting. The earliest date on which we have taken eggs was May 25, when incubation was about a third advanced. The latest was June 24, on which date a nest containing fresh eggs was taken.

When flushed from the nest the female instantly disappears, and only returns after a considerable interval of time. Then she approaches with the greatest caution, ready to dart away again at the first movement of the intruder. In this connection the male has a very curious and amusing habit. If he sees her after she leaves the nest, instead of joining her and consoling her in her misfortune, he promptly gives chase in the most furious manner, driving her from bush to bush as if she had wilfully deserted their treasures.

Tacoma, Washington.

Papers on Philippine Birds II. The Routine of a Collector's Work

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR

THE routine of collecting in the Philippine Islands is necessarily somewhat different from that pursued in more temperate climates. Aside from the effects of the greater humidity and the continuous heat there are many conditions very different from those familiar to the American collector. I have thought that an account of some of these might be of interest to my California friends.

Collecting in any part of the Philippines, except near the larger towns, means camping minus the dirt and discomfort of a tent. Even on the smallest island, provided there is drinkable water present, the collector is able to find a house admirably suited to his needs, cool in hot weather, dry during the rains, and always to be preferred to a tent owing to the elevation of its floor. Even if the collector pushes into the mountains of the larger islands, away from the towns, a house can be constructed in a very short time. The framework of the native-built house is fashioned from the bamboo, or where that is lacking small trees are utilized. Spikes and nails are not needed as rattan or other vines serve to tie the framework together. A thick thatch of "cogon" grass or leaves of the nipa palm makes the house perfectly waterproof.

Cooking gear and provisions must be taken from Manila since practically nothing can be purchased in such localities as the collector cares to visit. Except in Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboango, and a few other large cities no bread is made that a white man cares to eat and the natives who serve as camp-cooks know very little about making it. Potatoes are seldom worth the trouble of carrying into the field and none can be had away from markets. In a few localities the natives raise very good camotes or sweet potatoes; in Mindoro I found them particularly fine. Rice takes the place of bread and potatoes with the islanders and I have found it convenient to use rice in the same way.

Some fresh provisions can be purchased in most islands. Bananas can be bought at from five to fifteen cents per bunch and more rarely pineapples at from two to three cents each; fresh cocoanuts for the asking. The inhabitants of coast towns fish more or less and a considerable supply is often available. As we carry a seine we get river fish by our own efforts wherever they occur. Fresh meat, in the shape of chickens, is very scarce and usually quite out of the question.

Filipinos will often trade when they will not sell. A supply of needles, thread, tools, quinine, and colored beads is always a safe addition to make when outfitting, as in barter these articles usually bring double their cost and go much better than cash. The people living in the smaller isolated islands are pitifully poor and are ill equipped with the tools and household utensils which we look upon as necessities. On my trip to Calayan Island I carried an ordinary hand saw costing a dollar in Manila; this I sold to a fellow for two dollars and within an hour he had sold it for two and a half. If I remember rightly this was the only saw in Calayan.

To the fortunate possessor of a gun, the woods and marshes yield a sure supply of game. When collecting there is no time for serious hunting, but some or all of the following birds may be killed on any of the islands with a little effort: hornbills, pigeons, megapodes, chickens, parrots, ducks, plover, snipe and rail. On the larger islands an occasional deer or wild hog adds variety to the bill of fare.

As for clothing I have found the following rig satisfactory: a light-colored cloth hat, a light, loose, sleeveless shooting coat, a blue flannel shirt, kahki panta-

loons, and heavy tan shoes. Shoes and pants are wet almost daily so I never wear socks but change to a dry rig and slippers on returning to the house. Rubber goods must be let alone unless one enjoys a continuous Turkish bath. The outfit should be light and loose whatever else it is. Neither long boots nor leggings are desirable except where leeches are numerous; even then thick wool stockings are the best protection.

Insect pests are few and not very troublesome. In the dryer districts and especially along the coast where the monsoons are felt one is seldom troubled with mosquitoes, but in marshy regions or in forests they are a source of danger and discomfort from dusk to daylight. Sleep is impossible without a mosquito bar. During the day mosquitoes are seldom in sight unless a curtain or hanging garment is disturbed when they fly out in a cloud. A small scorpion sometimes gets into a shoe or between the blankets and causes some excitement when discovered. They are not dangerous, their sting being about as painful as that of a bee. Probably the large scorpion of Mindanao is more venomous than the small species I have seen. In Benguet my native boys were greatly annoyed by fleas but I never felt one.

The most serious pest of the country is a worm. In the damp forests of the larger islands the ground is infested with countless leeches. The bite of these animals is not painful but it is unpleasant to feel that six to a dozen of them are sucking your blood. The wound made by a leech usually heals in a few days but it may result in an obstinate sore. Natives say that a leech pulled off the flesh leaves a bad sore, but if the leech be invited to move with the warm end of a cigar or cigarette the wound heals without trouble. As far as my experience goes this theory is correct; at any rate the moral is obvious enough. Leeches move along on the damp fallen leaves after the manner of the measuring worms (*Geometridæ*) and by means of the sucker at either extremity, attach themselves to any animal passing within their reach. The natives claim that the jar of the ground or movement of leaves and sticks notifies the leeches of the approaching victim. Ordinary cotton socks offer no obstruction whatever to leeches as they are able to pass thru the mesh; I have often seen one half-way thru a sock. High boots or heavy wool socks are the best protection.

All birds should be killed in the morning and skinned as soon as possible. Aside from the fact that they begin to slough the epidermis on the abdomen within a few hours, or even within one hour after death, there is constant danger from the ever present ant. The troublesome species is so small that an unskinned bird is often alive with ants before they are noticed. Even after specimens have been skinned they are not safe. We use corrosive sublimate solution on bill, legs, and bend of wing, and scatter naphthaline crystals in all bird boxes. The latter substance is sure death to ants.

Large skins, and in rainy weather, all skins, dry very slowly. Even in the driest weather I have found it best to put trays of drying skins in the sun for a few hours each day to prevent the growth of mould. For some time I had trouble with a colored ink which I was using on my rubber dating stamps; a few days in the sun and the lettering was faded to illegibility. I now use a black rubber stamp ink which is practically indelible.

Collecting in the afternoon is, as a rule, unsatisfactory, since it necessitates night work to save the birds. The short time between sundown and dark and the corresponding time in the morning may be utilized to advantage for collecting owls and night-hawks. Screech-owls (*Otus*) are given to perching on houses and

fences during moonlight nights and it is often worth while to hunt for them at such times.

In Calayan I found another owl (*Ninox*) perched on drift logs along the beach both night and morning. This afforded an unusually good chance to collect them, as the birds, once killed, were easily found on the beach sand.

Shore and marsh birds are to be found in the localities usually inhabited by these classes, but as few of them are of particular interest we may speak of the birds of the forest. It is in the forest that rare species are to be found.

An experienced collector begins his work by locating the flowering trees and watching them for birds. One of the most productive trees in this connection is the "dap-dap," which during the first three months of the year is covered with large scarlet flowers and these are rendered very conspicuous by the absence of the leaves which come out only after the flowers have fallen. This tree is a great favorite with many species of birds, so that with one or two small boys to retrieve specimens the collector has only to pick off the species he wishes. Parrots, fruit-thrushes, starlings, sun-birds, creepers, and flower-peckers are among the company of birds frequenting the flowering "dap-dap;" but if a number of crows begin feeding in one of these trees, few other birds will go near it.

When the "dap-dap" season is over one must look for other flower trees. The wild fig trees, of which there are a number of species, attract many birds and certain species of birds are sure to be found about the guava bushes when their yellow fruit is ripe. The very rarest birds, however, do not come to the fruit and flower trees and are to be found only thru a knowledge of their specific habits and by persistent search thru the woods.

An auxiliary barrel is not needed in routine collecting. It is, however, a very useful thing for certain small ground birds and for collecting sun-birds and flower-peckers when these birds are feeding at small flowering shrubs. At times a favorable tree or vine is found in blossom where one may sit down and kill a basketful of small birds with the auxiliary. I first observed the beautiful flower-peckers, *Dicaeum xanthopygium* and *D. retrocinctum*, feeding at blossoms so high that it took a good load of number 12 shot to bring a bird down. Later I collected them at a fig tree where many were easily taken with a .32 auxiliary. For most of our collecting we load a 12 gage shell with $2\frac{1}{2}$ drams of black powder and $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of number 12 shot. Factory-loaded paper shells can be used if they are put up in tins in small lots, say 500, and opened only as needed. If exposed to the air for several months the wads swell and render the shells useless.

It is but fair to say a word as to the assistance received from the natives of the Philippines. In the first place we should remember the houses, already mentioned, which save the naturalist the trouble of living in a tent. These are often built away from towns and in localities favorable to the collector's work. Another important help is the numerous paths, cut thru brush and jungle, traversing the land in all directions. Without these paths it would be difficult to penetrate the undergrowth for even a short distance from the beach. The natives occasionally assist directly by the capture of birds and many rarities have come to light in this way. The only known specimen of *Callæops periophthalmica* was killed by a Filipino collector near Manila; the only specimen of the petrel family known from the Islands was caught by a native boy; the type and unique specimen of *Turnix worcesteri* was taken by native netters near Manila; *Turnix whiteheadi* is known only from market specimens, and so with many other species.

Natives have been employed as regular collectors by most recent naturalists and they are very satisfactory workers provided they are with a white man. They

possess the patience of an American Indian combined with the small boy's delight in a gun and take keen pleasure in securing new or rare birds.

Next to the leech the greatest pest is the average white man who wants to know how you kill 'em and what you do with 'em, or who insists that you are collecting for the Smithsonian "Institute"! The "little brown brothers" are quite as inquisitive but one need not understand Spanish and can forgive them as they know no better.

When once you become resigned or callous to the delays in transportation, to the slowness inherent in natives of all tropical countries, to the monotony of rice at every meal, to the lack of mail for weeks at a time, and forget the inquisitive white, you really enjoy collecting in the Philippines. To expect tomorrow what should come today and to be unruffled when the morrow does not bring it is to live happily in these islands. Mexico has been called "the land of manana"; the Philippines are the islands of *paciencia*.

Manila, P. I.

The Nuttall Sparrow Around San Francisco

BY LOUIS BOLANDER

THE Nuttall sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*) is very plentiful around San Francisco at all times. Along canyons that have just enough brush for a cover, near the sea shore, and along wooded highways you can nearly always find this wide-awake bird. I knew of a place in the suburbs of San Francisco where they used to come and roost in a vine against the house every night. This was in January and February. There is a valley near the city called Frenchman's Valley. Here you can see this sparrow at any time; for they nest and raise their young here, finding their food in the nearby vegetable gardens. They do not fly far when followed by a person, except when he has a gun; then they disappear in all directions. They build their nests in the brush which here does not grow higher than two feet. Once in a while I find a nest built on the ground. The nests are not bulky when they are built thus. The only site where I have noted their nests as being bulky is where they build in trees, especially the young pines.

The first two nests of this species I ever found were built in pine trees about eight feet above the ground. And here the nests were very bulky. The inside lining was of light-colored soft grasses; then around this were heavier grasses of darker color; and then came a thick matting of pine needles. You could not tell the nest apart from the other bunches of needles that had caught in the crotches of the tree. The bird flew off each time as I approached the nest, and this was the only means of finding the nest. Both male and female kept up a constant chirping while I was near. Both nests contained three eggs. These nests were found in a small valley leading up from the pumping station on Lake Merced. When the nests are built in cypress trees they are generally small but not as small as those built in bushes.

The birds commence to breed about the last of March. I found one set on April 8, 1905. The eggs were deserted because of a heavy rain just a few days before, or possibly from some other cause. Within fifty feet was another nest with four half-grown young birds in it, all with their mouths open for food. The

parents kept up a constant chirping and approached quite near while we were around. They must have commenced nesting about the middle of March.

The highest I ever found a nest built, was about thirty-five feet up in a cypress. This nest was easily seen from the ground, and contained two perfectly fresh eggs. The parent birds were not around. Golden Gate Park of this city is another breeding place of these birds. Here they are not disturbed, and they build commonly in the bushes and trees. One nest I saw was built in a brush-pile. A song sparrow had its nest in the other end of the same pile.

The eggs of this species are really very pretty. The ground color is of a greenish blue. This is splashed and dotted with liver brown, and purple washings are often noticeable. I have one egg which looks as tho someone had taken a brush and painted a pale purple band around the center of it. Some eggs are covered over the entire larger end with the brown markings, until it appears like one solid color. The eggs are from two to four in each full set.

The Nuttall sparrows seem to find their food mostly along the ground. They feed in the roadways, a good deal like the English sparrow. In fact the two species are quite similar in several respects.

San Francisco, Cal.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Empidonax From Santa Catalina Island.—In the March number of THE CONDOR for 1905 (page 51) I presented evidence adverse to the contention that the Empidonax breeding on the Santa Barbara Islands is a distinct form. Additional material obtained since then has confirmed the conclusion that "*Empidonax insulicola*" has no basis for recognition.

Mr. Charles Richardson, Jr., secured 8 skins in the vicinity of Avalon, Catalina Island, from April 15 to 20, 1905. The birds were then nest-building, so there is no doubt whatever but that they were quartered in the locality for the summer. Mr. Richardson and I together carefully compared these 8 specimens with my large series of mainland *difficilis*. Not a single character was detected by which the Catalina birds could be distinguished, when adults in breeding plumage only were considered.

It was found that the dorsal brownness of some specimens is obviously due to an advanced stage of wear which results in the loss of the bright yellowish olive which overlies the brown. A selected feather from the interscapular tract (in an early spring migrant before wear has had much effect) shows the contour portion to be centrally olive brown and toward the ends of the barbs bright yellowish olive. Examination of a corresponding feather from a June bird shows very plainly that the browner tone of the upper surface is due to the loss of the yellowish distal portion of the barbs. In an unworn bird the brighter terminal portion of each feather overlaps and more or less conceals the brown central portion of the next feather posteriorly. As abrasion gradually removes the terminal portions of the barb, the back of the bird appears more and more brownish.

Changes occur in the other feather tracts which affect the tones of coloration in a similar way.

Of course there is variation in the rate of wear in the same species of bird in different localities; and also individual variation in the intensities of colors to begin with. Taking all of these things into consideration I fail to find any character by which to discriminate the Catalina birds from any other local aggregation of *Empidonax difficilis* which I have seen. The name "*insulicola*" is thus getting so objectionable as to invite immediate interment in our synonymic graveyard. It is very easy to describe a "sp. nov." upon inadequate grounds, but vastly more tedious, and a thankless job all around, to disprove it. I know both, from experience!—J. GRINNELL, Pasadena, Cal.

Peculiarities of Ducks in Nesting.—In June and July, 1903, in northeastern Montana, I found large colonies of ducks breeding, principally blue-winged and green-winged teals, mallards, canvasbacks and spoonbills. I was interested in the fact that all the ducks just mentioned frequently deposit their eggs in each other's nests, it being no uncommon thing to find the eggs of three varieties of ducks in one nest. The eggs of the larger ducks and those of the teal were often found together.

I also found the mallards nesting in the short grass on the hillsides and even on the tops of the hills a mile or more from water.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles, Cal.*

Whistling Swans.—A flock of between 15 and 20 whistling swans (*Olor columbianus*) came onto the Alameda Gun Club's marsh in Sonoma County about the first of December, 1905. They were reported by the keeper at different times up to the last shot, February 15, when they were still there. The swans would not stay in one flock all the time, but would separate into bands of half-a-dozen to feed in the different ponds. They did not appear to be very shy, and not one was touched, as the law forbids. Never before had more than one or two at a time been seen.—LOUIS BOLANDER, *San Francisco, Cal.*

Eggs of the Sage Grouse.—Having noticed some confliction in regard to the number of eggs per set ascribed to the sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) I give here the result of observations made in northeastern Montana in 1903. From May to July of that year I examined about 50 nests of this species, the smallest set numbering eight eggs, and the largest fifteen. Both of these are unusual, the general number being from ten to thirteen.—G. WILLETT, *Los Angeles, Cal.*

Unusual Breeding Records at Escondido.—A nest of the golden pileolated warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla chrysola*) with four fresh eggs was found by me in a willow grove in the San Pasqual Valley—elevation 350 feet above sea level—on June 16, 1901. The grove contained a number of patches of wild rose and the nest was placed at the margin of one of these near the edge of the grove at about a foot from the ground. It is large and uncouth-appearing for a warbler and is made of stems of nettles with their leaves, and willow leaves and blossoms, all green; also old dry nettle leaves. The lining is of dry shreds of grass, loosely laid in. When found it was all slightly covered and obscured by the leaves of the rose and nettles. Its present measurements are about 8 inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in depth outside and $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch inside. When found the depth was much greater. It has flattened since then considerably. Both birds were seen and the male secured. On June 18, 1905, I saw a male of the species in the same grove but did not see his mate who was probably holding down a nest in the vicinity, which I could not find. These are the only times I have ever seen the species here, in nesting time.

On June 18, 1905, I found a nest and eggs of the Bell sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*) in the same wild rose patch referred to above and not more than ten feet from where the warbler's nest was taken. No bird was secured but both were seen and noticed for half an hour as they fluttered around thru the brush, coming within a few feet of me. This is a fairly common bird around San Diego and might reasonably be expected to be met with here, but I never knew of its breeding here before.

San Pasqual proved attractive to the Traill flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli*) also last season, and I found it breeding for the first time on June 4. The nest was in a clump of nettles on the edge of a water hole in a grove of willows and was the exact counterpart of the nest of a lazuli bunting. The bird secured was identified for me by Mr. Grinnell.

One would expect that these three species would not be so very rare here as all three breed in this county in localities not so vastly different nor so very far from this neighborhood. But in years of hunting and collecting here these are the only breeding records in my knowledge.

In the Field and Study notes in January CONDOR Mr. Grinnell speaks of a wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) being taken near Oxnard, Ventura County. In November last Mr. F. X. Holzner of San Diego showed me a beautiful specimen of that species which had been sent to him to mount from Ramona where it had been shot. Ramona is about 15 miles southeast of Escondido and about 25 miles from San Diego. This is likely to prove the most southerly record for the species in the State.—C. S. SHARP, *Escondido, Cal.*

Results of a Gale at Pacific Beach.—During a heavy gale that lasted for several days in the latter part of November, 1905, Mr. H. W. Marsden found a number of rhinoceros auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), Pacific fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*), and dark-bodied shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) dead or dying along the shore at Pacific Beach, San Diego County, Cal. His most interesting capture there was a young female mew gull (*Larus canus*) on Nov. 30, which is now No. 14829 of my collection.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, *New Haven, Conn.*

THE CONDOR

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Ornithology

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EDITORIALS

As a result of the San Francisco fire, following the earthquake of April 18, the California Academy of Sciences building with its contents was totally destroyed. This constitutes a tremendous loss to ornithology, for here was located the largest study collection of birds west of the great museums of the Atlantic cities. This collection, numbering in the neighborhood of 25,000 specimens, was unique in its extensive series of superbly prepared skins of sea-birds. The accumulation and study of these had long been the devoted aim of the Director of the Academy, Leverett M. Loomis. Another most deplorable feature of the disaster was the destruction of the valuable library, the ornithological portion of which contained many rare and expensive sets, such as complete files of the *Ibis* and *Journal fuer Ornithologie*. At the present writing (May 1) we have been unable to learn whether or not anything at all was saved. There is now practically no library on the Pacific coast suitable for extended research reference in ornithology. However, the Academy's endowment remains, together with the insurance on the burned buildings, so that we may confidently look for the institution to gradually regain its scientific importance.

As far as we now know (May 2) the Mailiard collections are safe, having been housed in San Francisco luckily just outside the limits reached by the fire. H. W. Carriger, however, lost nearly all his bird library; and M. S. Ray lost practically everything. Other Cooper Club members residing in San Francisco are yet to be heard from. Across the Bay, where the shock was less violent, and where fire did not add its destructiveness, little or no damage is reported. The collections of Taylor, Emerson and Cohen proved practically uninjured. While the buildings at Stanford University suffered severely, the natural history collections and libraries are quite safe. Nace's printing shop

in Santa Clara was partially wrecked, but its efficiency has been completely restored as attested to by the present issue of THE CONDOR.

Mr. Ruthven Deane informs us that to his knowledge there were but two copies of Audubon's "Birds of America," folio edition, west of the Missouri. These were in the Mechanics Library and Mark Hopkins Art Institute, San Francisco, and both were probably burned along with the horde of other rarities which can never be replaced.

Under date of April 21, Milton S. Ray writes us from San Francisco: "I am unable to account for the presence of various birds about the districts which escaped burning unless they are released cage-birds. This they probably are, as many are canaries. In the midst of the ruins in the Mission section a grove of cypress trees remained unscathed and notwithstanding the intense heat and sickening smoke, the English sparrows were carrying nesting material into the trees and working as assiduously as ever."

Attention is called to the fact that the Club-at-large is once more provided with a secretary. As elsewhere reported, the March Northern Division meeting duly elected to the Secretaryship Mr. Hubert O. Jenkins, of Stanford University. All communications intended for either the Northern Division or the Club-at-large should hereafter be addressed to him.

One (to us) very serious disadvantage of this combining and dividing of States is the confusion it makes in locating the published record-stations of birds. We hereby register our vote in favor of retaining the separate identity of Arizona and New Mexico!

Prof. F. E. L. Beal of the Department of Agriculture is in California again, for the purpose of continuing his study of the food of our birds. His headquarters will be at Haywards, and most of his work will be carried on in the orchards about the southern end of San Francisco Bay.

Mr. Frank S. Daggett in a recent letter to a Southern Division member remarked that there are now enough C. O. C. members in and close about Chicago to form another Division. This may not have been offered as a serious proposition; but nevertheless it strikes us as worthy of further consideration. It will be remembered that our Constitution was once amended so as to make it possible to form Chapters of the Club anywhere five or more members could meet together for bird-study. This seems to us quite apropos in the case of Chicago. We should be glad to see Mr. Daggett carry out his suggestion which could hardly help leading to successful results. The nucleus would consist of Deane, Daggett, Coale, Swarth, Woodruff, Gault, Knickerbocker and Price. There should be no dearth of interest with such an initial membership!

Altho it might seem a bit out of place in a purely ornithological magazine to venture

even so little beyond our narrow field, yet we cannot help remarking upon the pleasure to be derived from the study of mammals both in the field and museum. No specialist in any one group of animals can totally ignore every other group. The most eminent ornithologist will be the one who has a general knowledge of natural history to serve as a background for the study of his chosen specialty. A fair knowledge of insects, worms, molluscs, batrachians, reptiles and mammals will increase the accuracy of his study of the food-relations of birds, their distribution, and checks controlling their abundance. Mammals in particular need to be studied more in their bearing upon our avifaunas. Many birds-of-prey feed upon mammals, and many mammals feed upon birds. The chipmunk, as a nest-destroyer, has been accused of decimating the bird population of some parts of the country, where a certain species abounds. In fact mammalogy and ornithology can be very comfortably studied together, with little interference, and with much added satisfaction. Heretofore students of mammals have had no text-book to refer to in identifying west coast species. This want is now to be met by our own fellow club-member, Mr. Frank Stephens, who is even better known as a mammalogist than as an ornithologist. As announced elsewhere in this issue, Mr. Stephens is the author of a forthcoming work on California mammals which will place this study on a basis for comparatively easy pursuit. Let us hear more in regard to the relations of the various members of the squirrel family to bird population.

We wish to call the attention of every bird student to the communication in this issue from Mr. P. B. Peabody. When a prospective author resorts to a published appeal for information concerning the subject he is elaborating, everyone becomes in a way responsible. It too often happens that a book, of a comprehensive nature such as Mr. Peabody is so earnestly striving to compile, might have been a little more up-to-date if only someone who had the needed information up his sleeve had "loosened up." More than likely the individual in question remarks after the book appears in print, "Ugh! I could have told him better than that." Of course an author is responsible himself for the searching out of, and proper selection from, all published writings. In order to make his knowledge available to all other workers (in other words, therefore, to shift the responsibility), it is incumbent upon every serious bird student to put whatever observations of value he has made, upon permanent record. And to afford a medium for recording these things is the *raison d'être* of such a magazine as THE CONDOR.

BOOK NOTICES

WILD WINGS. Adventures of a Camera Hunter Among the Larger Wild Birds of North America on Sea and Land. By HERBERT KNIGHTLY JOB. With an Introductory Letter by Theodore Roosevelt. Houghton Mifflin & Co., 8 vo., xxviii+344 pages, 160 illustrations after photographs by the author. Price, \$3 net.

This is one of the most interesting portrayals of wild life that we have had the good fortune to read. Mr. Job is an enthusiastic naturalist and a skilled photographer as well, and with this equipment he has brought a generous slice of 'out-doors' between the two covers of his book. The illustrations are all good, and many are remarkable, having required a vast deal of patience and perseverance. Obviously it is impossible to give an adequate idea of a book of this character in a short notice, but the territory covered extends from Bird Rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to the Florida Keys, and some notion of the variety in subject matter may be gained from the chapter headings. Part I. Adventures in Florida Wilds, including: Cities of Brown Pelicans; Following Audubon among the Florida Keys; In the Cape Sable Wilderness; The Great Cuthbert Rookery; On Lone Bird Key. Part II. Other Wanderings South; Scavengers of the South; Virginia Bird-Homes of Beach and Marsh; The Egret, in Nature and in Fashion. Part III. The Sea! The Sea!—To Bird Rock in an Open Boat; Amid Northern Spruces and Sea-Girt Rocks; Off Chatham Bars. Part IV. The Elusive Shore-Birds—The Shore Patrol; Northward with the Shore-Bird Host; Shore-Bird Loiterers. Part V. Raptors and Forest Fastnesses—The New Sport of "Hawking"; Owl Secrets; Adventures with Great Horned Owls.—W. K. F.

TWO BIRD-LOVERS IN MEXICO. BY C. WILLIAM BEEBE. Illustrated with photographs from life taken by the author. Boston and New York. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 12 mo., xiii+408 pages, 106 half-tones. Price, \$3 net.

This attractive volume contains an account of a winter journey to Mexico, where three months were spent by Mr. and Mrs. Beebe, on what was virtually a camping trip. "We reached Vera Cruz on New Year's from which city we made three camping trips in the vicinity of the volcano of Colima, in the States of Jalisco and Colima; and returning via Vera Cruz, we left that port enroute for New York at Easter.

"The entire trip was so novel, so delightful, so absolutely devoid of unpleasant features, and on the whole so inexpensive, that it seemed to me that the knowledge of such an outing would tempt many lovers of Nature to this neighboring Republic. As an aid to such, Mrs. Beebe has added a chapter on 'How we did it.'"

The book is well calculated to tempt one to follow their example. It is written in a familiar, interesting style and contains many notes not only on birds but also on all the animals

which the enthusiastic naturalists encountered in their wanderings. Their trip covered a wide range of country with great diversity of climatic conditions. They were thus provided with a considerable variety of experiences which their freedom from the cares of 'collecting' enabled them to appreciate to the fullest extent.

The numerous illustrations, from photographs, of both animals and scenery greatly add to the attractiveness and value of the book, which is, in the best sense, a natural history narrative.—W. K. F.

STONE AND RHOADS "ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS FROM THE COLORADO DELTA, LOWER CALIFORNIA." Early in 1905 Mr. S. N. Rhoads made a trip thru the northeastern portion of Lower California in quest of specimens for the Philadelphia Academy. These are reported upon by Mr. Witmer Stone in the present paper, the field notes being quoted from Rhoads. 258 birds were secured, of 49 species. Among these, the record of 5 specimens taken of *Passerculus rostratus* rectifies the error of W. W. Price who recorded the bird found at the mouth of the Colorado as *guttatus*. (Bull. Cooper Orn. Club 1, Sept. 1899, page 92.)

Mr. Stone incidentally records another specimen of *Dryobates scalaris lucasanus* from California (exact locality apparently unknown), but concludes from the four skins taken in northern Lower California that *lucasanus* is not deserving of full specific rank, as urged by Brewster.

Besides the 49 species represented by specimens, a list of 58 additional species is appended as seen by Rhoads. Many of these are very doubtful, as often confessed by the use of the question mark. The catbird, western winter wren and broad-winged hawk seem to be particularly dubious cases.

Thus about 107 species were noted by Rhoads where Price (in the paper cited a few lines above) recorded 91 for the same locality at about the same season. The region will, however, bear a good deal more thoro attention than has yet been given it.—J. G.

COMMUNICATION

A New Bird Book

Editor THE CONDOR:

Prof. Lynds Jones having, in the latest issue of the Wilson Bulletin, spoken very kindly of my forth-coming work on the "Nesting Ways

of North American Birds" to the equal surprise and gratification of the compiler of the work, it becomes necessary to say somewhat in public, at once, concerning what has hitherto been exploited only in private. From the chronicling of personal records covering one hundred and ninety-five species and sub-species of birds, this work has grown, thru painstaking and minute elaboration and abridgement from "data" books, bulletins and magazine files, and the hearty co-operation of ornithologists, professional and amateur, until records that have been assorted, adapted or digested into manuscript now cover all but one hundred and two species and subspecies of the birds occurring north of the Rio Grande River (including, however, the ornith of the California coast islands; and that portion of the birds of the Greater Antilles that have a place on the A. O. U. List). The nomenclature will be brought up to the date of going to press. Geographic races recognized as subspecifically distinct by competent ornithologists will be appended in the above work, even tho not recognized by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification.

The scope of the work is the whole field of nesting habits, save for considerations of shapes, colors, sizes and textures of eggs; this portion of the field being already fairly well covered. Everything available in print has now been drawn upon except the great files of bulletins and proceedings which are to be found only in the larger city libraries; and not, by any means, in even all of these. The work now being done is in this direction, and it is a work both laborious and costly.

In the preparation of large masses of material, never as yet adequately found in print, the Preparator of the proposed book has enjoyed the generous help of just forty bird students and field workers. Of these, twenty-five are men of national reputation in this domain. When this work is ready for the press, the student who shall look to it for information concerning times, places, number of eggs, nesting conditions and distinctive habits of birds during the nesting season may confidently look to find, in "Nesting Ways," the vital facts, so far as known, for all North American birds. Here, in reasonably brief space, he will readily find thru careful lists and indexes that which would cost him no less than two hundred dollars, if bought in original form, and which would involve, even then, literally months of perplexing and wearisome research. The illustrations will be full, and wholly original. A large number of the subjects portrayed have never before been photographed; and there will be found in this work not a few facts that are absolutely new to science.

The book in question, incubating in the Preparator's mind for many years, has not been

¹ From the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, September, 1905. Issued Dec. 6, 1905. Pages 676-690. Birds, pages 681-690.

undertaken with any thought of personal gain. Prepared, thruout, with a view to the needs of the great host of younger bird students, the convenience of the scientific student has been as carefully borne in mind. And every possible effort will be made to keep the price of the work within the scope of humble purses.

In the interest of all sincere bird students and for the completing of my work on the "Nesting Ways of North American Birds," I greatly desire full and authentic data concerning the nesting of the following bird-races:—

Red-tailed tropic bird, northwest coast heron, southern California clapper rail, Gairdner woodpecker, Nelson downy woodpecker, southern white-headed woodpecker, brown flicker, Pacific nighthawk, Lower California flycatcher, northern spotted owl, northwest saw-whet owl, Queen Charlotte woodpecker, Queen Charlotte jay, gray jay, northern red-breasted sapsucker, California crow, San Diego redwing, northwestern redwing, Vera Cruz redwing, Rocky Mountain pine grosbeak, California pine grosbeak, large-billed sparrow, gray sage sparrow, California sage sparrow, San Diego song sparrow, Mendocino song sparrow, San Clemente towhee, Saint Lucas swallow, Island shrike, black-fronted warbler, salt marsh yellowthroat, golden pileolated warbler, Oregon Bewick wren, Barlow chickadee, coast wren-tit, and Alma thrush.

Data may be brief, but must be to the point and absolutely authentic. Credit will be given in the text and preface.

* P. B. PEARBODY.

Newcastle, Wyoming; March 7, 1906.

Minutes of Club Meetings

NORTHERN DIVISION

JANUARY.—No minutes were left by the former secretary before his departure so that the following is mainly a compilation. Club met in council room of California Academy of Sciences, President Mailliard in chair. The following resolutions were adopted:

"Resolved: That the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club heartily endorses and approves the action of the California Fish and Game Commission in its efforts for the protection and preservation of California birds." A copy of these resolutions was ordered to be forwarded to said Commission.

"Resolved: That the Cooper Ornithological Club, with a knowledge of the skillful workmanship of the late Walter E. Bryant in the preparation of bird skins for scientific purposes, desires to recommend that special efforts be made to retain his collection within the State of California."

The quorum for the Northern Division was raised to 9, and to 11 for the Club-at-large.

Mr. Geo. W. King of Santa Rosa, Cal., was proposed for active membership by Lawrence Kessing.

The following were elected to active membership: W. L. Dawson, Louis Wessel, Miss Edith L. Waterman.

The following officers for 1906 were elected: President, Joseph Mailliard; Senior Vice-president, W. K. Fisher; Junior Vice-president, W. O. Emerson; Treasurer, H. T. Clifton; Secretary, C. S. Thompson [since resigned].

ANNUAL DINNER.—The Twelfth Annual dinner and meeting was held at Tait's Cafe, San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 13 at 8 p. m. The following were present: Dr. A. K. Fisher, Washington, D. C., R. C. McGregor, Manila, P. I., W. O. Emerson, H. C. Ward, H. W. Carriger, D. A. Cohen, Dr. F. W. D'Evelyn, Mrs. H. R. Taylor, Mrs. Jeannette Barlow, H. R. Taylor, C. S. Thompson, W. K. Fisher. At the close of the dinner, W. O. Emerson, on behalf of the club-at-large, presented W. K. Fisher, the retiring editor of THE CONDOR, with a handsome silver Loving Cup. This cup, which was made by Shreve & Co. from designs by Mr. Emerson, represents a condor's egg, natural size, between two condors, standing. A photograph was published in the last issue of this journal. Mr. Emerson made a few well-chosen remarks before the presentation, and was responded to by Mr. Fisher. After an informal chat the meeting adjourned.

MARCH.—The club met at the residence of President Mailliard, 1815 Vallejo St., San Francisco, Cal., March 10; present, 10 members and 3 visitors; President Mailliard presiding. The following proposals to active membership were made: Mr. Frank M. Woodruff, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Bertha Russ, Ferndale, Cal.; Mr. Allan Brooks, Okanogan Landing, B. C.; Col. S. S. Hawkins, Portland, Ore.; Mr. Clark C. Van Fleet, 2020 Pacific Ave., San Francisco. The following resignations were accepted: Mr. R. H. Johnson, Mr. W. F. Sampson, Miss Anna Head, Mr. S. A. Barrett.

Mr. Geo. W. King, Santa Rosa, Cal., was elected to active membership.

The resolutions passed by the Southern Division, officially adopting the coming A. O. U. Check-list were discussed and finally ordered laid on the table.

The office of secretary being, on motion, declared vacant, Mr. Hubert O. Jenkins, Stanford University, California, was duly elected. [Mr. Thompson's resignation, delayed in mails, arrived after the meeting.]

Mr. Joseph Mailliard related his experiences in photographing birds during the past summer at Santa Barbara and illustrated his talk with numerous photographs. Mr. H. O. Jenkins described a collecting trip into the Santa Lucia Mountains, Monterey County, detailing with

the aid of a map and many photographs the faunal and physiographic features of the region. Mr. H. R. Taylor exhibited a set of eggs of *Chaetura vauxi*, and several interesting series of cactus wren, scissor-tailed flycatcher, desert sparrowhawk, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, and others, showing some remarkable variations.

After a sojourn in the dining-room for refreshments and a postprandial social chat the meeting adjourned.

W. K. FISHER, *Acting Secretary*.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The February meeting of the Southern Division was held Feb. 23, 1906, in the offices of Mr. Howard Robertson, Bryson Building, Los Angeles, with thirteen members present, and Mr. C. L. Newcombe visiting.

After reading and approval of the minutes of the last meeting, a communication from Mr. Frank Stephens was presented, embodying the following resolution, which was adopted.

Whereas the American Ornithologists' Union has announced its intention to radically revise its current Check-List of North American Birds, and

Whereas the results of this revision will be of prime interest to every member of the Cooper Ornithological Club as well as to every ornithologist in the United States; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Cooper Ornithological Club urges upon the American Ornithologists' Union,

1st. That such revision be, if possible, so thorough that further revision will be unnecessary for a period of years, and

2nd. That the admission of subspecies to this list be on a wisely conservative basis, excluding therefrom obscure or slightly differentiated alleged subspecies, and

3d. That, after such revision, supplements to include necessary changes be issued only at intervals of five years.

And since uniformity and stability of nomenclature is of greater importance to the Cooper Ornithological Club than any preference of detail,

Be it finally Resolved, that this Club will accept and use such revised Check-List as the American Ornithologists' Union may agree upon.

[The above resolutions were not endorsed by the Northern Division, as shown by their minutes.]

The application of C. L. Newcombe, 1235 W. Sixth street, Los Angeles, Cal., for active membership, was received, and Miss Olga S. Tarbell of Pasadena, and Mr. Bradshaw H. Swales, Detroit, Michigan, were elected to active membership.

The following talks and papers were presented:

G. Willett—Talk—Collecting Experiences in N. E. Montana; Carroll Scott—Paper—Birds observed in vicinity of Searchlight, Nevada; Grinnell—Paper—Two Questionable Records; Grinnell—Talk—The Sapsuckers; O. W. Howard—Paper—The English Sparrow.

J. EUGENE LAW, *Secretary*.

MARCH.—Meeting called to order at Throop Polytechnic Institute, March 22, 1906, by Vice-

President Judson, with members Clifton, Grinnell, Willett, Miller, Franklin, Taylor, Dixon, Richardson, Antonin and Alphonse Jay, and Law present, and, as visitors, Mrs. Jessie K. P. Whitaker and Mr. Chas. Cosper of Salem, Oregon.

The Minutes of the last meeting, Feb. 23d., were read and approved.

The application of Henry K. Coale, 136 Washington street, room 1205, Chicago, was proposed and ordered transmitted to the Northern Division.

On motion by Mr. Clifton, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of the Club for C. L. Newcombe for membership. This formality was complied with by the Secretary.

Letters were read from Mr. F. S. Daggett, now of Chicago, and Mr. M. L. Wicks, now of Memphis, Tenn., after which Prof. Loye Holmes Miller gave a very comprehensive talk on the birds of Lower California, exhibiting a few skins collected by himself in this region. The region known as the Cape Region is embraced between the parallels of 23 degrees and 24 degrees latitude. The lower part of the peninsula is comparatively isolated, by water on three sides, and by the low strip of desert on the north, thus developing insular forms. The fauna not differentiated corresponds to that of adjacent portions of California and the mainland of Mexico, across the gulf. Of particular interest were the differentiated forms. The robin is very pale, tho apparently not a desert form. The yellow-throat becomes larger, averaging 25 per cent larger, the cardinal and house finch brighter, the narrow-fronted woodpecker, like our Californian in brightness and coloration, except for the restriction of the white on the forehead. The approximate absence of sparrows and warblers was noticeable.

Mr. Joseph Grinnell gave a talk on the smaller hawks and owls, exhibiting skins of prairie falcon, Cooper, sharp-shinned and pigeon hawks, and white-tailed kite; also of screech, saw-whet and pigmy owls. Mr. Grinnell was particularly fortunate in his last summer's trip, in obtaining the fifth specimen taken of the dwarf flammulated screech owl. Interesting comparisons were drawn between the allied forms of these hawks and owls.

Mr. Grinnell followed this talk with a plea for the use of more real common names for our birds. He hoped that the new A. O. U. Check-list would call quail, quail, and not partridge, and that instead of bluebird and western bluebird, we have eastern bluebird and western bluebird. Many other instances were suggested which, if adopted, would make our check-list conform more nearly to the established general usages. Adjourned.

J. EUGENE LAW, *Secretary*.

